IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A digital signal receiver, comprising:

a reception processor operable to receive a broadcast signal that includes repeating data, the repeating data being a particular period of data that is successively repeated within the broadcast signal, and to use a browser to cause the received repeating data to be displayed by a display unit; and

a distributed information storage unit operable to obtain the received repeating data from said reception processor, to separate one of the successively repeated periods of data from the received repeating data, to store the one period of data in a data storage device, to read the one period of data from the data storage device in response to a received command, to restore the repeating data using the one period of data~~, the restored~~ by successively repeating the one period of data plural times~~having the same signal format as the received repeating data~~, to generate a menu frame of items associated with the one period of data, to convert the menu frame into menu data having a format that can be used by the browser, and to deliver at least one of the restored repeating data and the menu data to said reception processor;

said reception processor being further operable to use the browser to cause the at least one of the restored repeating data and the menu data to be displayed by the display unit.

2. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit includes the data storage device.

3. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit is operable to select items for inclusion in the menu frame based on preferences associated with a given user.

4. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit is operable to arrange items included in the menu frame based on priorities associated with a given user.

5. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reception processor is further operable to encrypt the received repeating data before the received repeating data is obtained by said distributed information storage unit, and said distributed information storage unit is further operable to decrypt the encrypted data to obtain the received repeating data from said reception processor.

6. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit is further operable to encrypt the at least one of the restored repeating data and the menu data before the at least one of the restored repeating data and the menu data is supplied to said reception processor, and said reception processor is further operable to decrypt the encrypted data supplied by said distributed information storage unit.

7. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein the broadcast signal is transmitted during a vacant broadcast time.

8. (currently amended) A digital signal display method, comprising:

receiving a broadcast signal that includes repeating data, the repeating data being a particular period of data that is successively repeated within the broadcast signal;

separating one of the successively repeated periods of data from the received repeating data;

storing the one period of data;

reading out the one period of stored data in response to a command;

restoring the repeating data using the one period of stored data~~, the restored~~ by successively repeating the one period of data plural times~~having the same signal format as the received repeating data~~;

generating a menu frame of items associated with the one period of data;

converting the menu frame into menu data having a format that can be used by a browser; and

using the browser to display at least one of the restored repeating data and the menu data on a display unit.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said receiving step is carried out by a first unit, said separating step is carried out by a second unit, and said method further comprises: encrypting the received repeating data after said receiving step, sending the encrypted data from the first unit to the second unit, and decrypting the encrypted data before said separating step.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said converting step is carried out by a first unit, said step of using the browser is carried out by a second unit, and said method further comprises: encrypting the at least one of the restored repeating data and the menu data, sending the encrypted data from the first unit to the second unit, and decrypting the encrypted data before said step of using the browser.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit is further operable to encrypt the one period of data before the one period of data is stored in the data storage device, to read the encrypted data from the data

storage device in response to the received command, and to decrypt the encrypted data to obtain the one period of data.

13. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit is further operable to accumulate billing data in a watch record whenever the one period of data is read from the data storage device.

14. (previously presented) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 13, wherein said distributed information storage unit is further operable to periodically send the billing data to said reception processor for transmission to a management center.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said storing step includes encrypting the one period of data and storing the encrypted data, and said reading out step includes reading out the encrypted data in response to the received command and decrypting the encrypted data to obtain the one period of data.

16. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising: accumulating billing data in a watch record whenever said step of reading out the one period of stored data is carried out.

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising: periodically transmitting the billing data to a management center.

18. (new) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particular period of data is a specific sequence of signal frames, and the repeating data is the sequence of signal frames successively repeated.

19. (new) The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 18, wherein the restored repeating data is the sequence of signal frames successively repeated the plural times.

20. (new) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the particular period of data is a specific sequence of signal frames, and the repeating data is the sequence of signal frames successively repeated.

21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 20, w wherein the restored repeating data is the sequence of signal frames successively repeated the plural times.